

Review of: "Exploring the Link between Climate Change and Farming in Rural and Peri-Urban Communities in Sierra Leone"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The title of the article is "Exploring the Link between Climate Change and Farming in Rural and Peri-Urban Communities in Sierra Leone." The subject addressed by the author is an interesting one given the topicality of climate change. However, the work still needs to be improved.

Comment 1:

The author said in the abstract: "Climate change has been impacting farming and livelihood outcomes around the world. In Sierra Leone, limited studies have been done in this direction; therefore, this study was undertaken to understand and explain what has been happening." It would be better to say: "this study was therefore undertaken to fill this gap."

Comment 2:

The author said in the abstract: "The aim and objectives were achieved through the following research questions: What crops and animals are reared by the farmers? What has been the trend in the yield of crops and the number of animals produced between 2014 and 2023? How have climatic parameters been impacting farming in the study area? What have been the coping strategies adopted by the farmers to reduce the impact of climate change on farming in the study area?"

Instead of using both aim and objectives simultaneously, it will be better to use one of them. On the other hand, the questions should be reduced to a single research question. This will make the purpose of the article less confusing.

Comment 3:

The author missed specifying the data period in the abstract.

Comment 4:

On page 3 of the introduction, the author said: "A similar report of climate impact on animal farming was made by Sesay (2022), though in one district in the north of the country. Studies on the link between climate change and farming in the four geographic regions of the country are still not clear, as researches undertaken so far have not been adequate to clearly establish the link in a more scientific manner." The author has not specified the aspects analyzed by the studies he has mentioned. Furthermore, compared to Sesay's study (2022), what is the contribution of this article? In other words,

we don't see the gap that the author is trying to fill in this article.

Comment 5:

What are the main types of crops grown in the selected communities in the four regions? What are the main types of farm animals reared in the study areas? In which agro-ecologies are these crops grown and animals reared? What are the estimated yields of the main food crops in the study area over the past 10 years (2014-2023)? Is there a relationship between the decline in yields of crops cultivated and climate change? What climatic parameters or elements are seriously affecting crop production and animal rearing? What have been the coping strategies farmers have employed to reduce the effects of climate change on farming in their communities in the study area?

There are too many research questions. It would be better to reduce them to one question.

Comment 6:

In the methodology section, the author said, "Correlation and regression analyses were done to show the relationship between climatic elements and farming, and further analysis, mainly multi-linear regression, was done to predict the impact of climate change on farming in the study areas." But neither in this methodology nor in the other sections of the article is there a presentation of the regression models the author has discussed.

Comment 7:

In section 3.1, Socio-economic and Demographic Profile of Farmers, the author has used statistics to describe the socio-economic and demographic profile of producers, but without specifying the sources. It would be better to specify the figures or tables in the document from which these statistics were taken.

Decision

The paper is publishable. But before publication, the author must take into account the major observations made.